

## Hill Panel Asks Proof Of Cuba Role in Zaire

Associated Press

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee decided yesterday to demand CIA evidence that would back up President Carter's claim of Cuban involvement in the recent invasion of Zaire by Katangan rebels.

The committee requested such proof from Secretary of State Cyrus Vance during a closed-door meeting on the U.S.-Soviet arms limitation talks. But Vance told the senators it was the CIA, not the State Department, which had the evidence.

Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., who disclosed the committee action to reporters, quoted Vance as having told the panel he "would prefer that we'd interrogate them (the CIA)."

He said the senators agreed to call on CIA Director Stansfield Turner for an explanation. He did not say whether an actual vote was taken, but there was "no question that the entire committee supported the request."

Cuban officials, including President Fidel Castro, deny that Cuban forces in Angola had any role in the invasion of Zaire's Shaba province by Katangan rebels operating from Angola.

Dozens of Europeans and many African residents of Shaba were killed, injured or left homeless before the invasion was quelled by French and Belgian paratroopers.

McGovern told reporters he personally had been assured twice by the Cubans — first by the chief of their diplomatic-interest section here and again on Thursday by Cuban Vice President (Carlos Rafael) Rodriguez at the United Nations — that there was no Cuban involvement in the Zaire episode.

In addition, McGovern recalled that Castro last week called in the senior U.S. diplomat in Havana, Lyle Lane, to deny Cuban involvement in Zaire.

Carter said Thursday that the United States knows that "the Cubans have played a key role in training and equipping the Katangans who attacked."

Asked whether he personally believed the Cubans rather than Carter, McGovern replied: "I'm not passing judgment. But I know a contradiction when I see one. I think it's time for the committee to have a clear answer."

SFRC